AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 21, 30, 39, and 40, as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for simulating a communications network through objects that model a respective set of network modules or devices, comprising the step of inserting for every module or device of said set which has a plurality of different implementations at least one respective interfacing object with other modules or devices of said set; said respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object being uniform for all modules or devices of said set and said internal side of said respective interfacing object being related to the plurality of different implementations of said modules or devices.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of: realising, for a module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations; and providing a unique interfacing object for all different implementations of said plurality.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of: realising, for a module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations; and providing a respective interfacing object for every different implementation of said plurality of different implementations.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, comprising the step of configuring the external side of said interfacing objects to allow communication among modules or devices of said set as events.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, comprising the step of configuring the external side of said interfacing objects to allow the communication among modules or devices of said set as messages.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of:

providing a statistics managing module to collect statistic data pertaining to the operation of said simulated network; and

measuring said statistic data through said statistics managing module through the external side of said interfacing objects associated with the modules or devices of said set.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interfacing objects exchange information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interfacing objects exchange information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

a time indicator;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interface objects comprise functionalities selected from:

messages dispatching functionality,

events dispatching functionality,

messages receiving functionality, and

events receiving functionality.

30. (Currently Amended) A system <u>comprising at least one computer</u> for simulating a communications network through objects that model<u>, using the at least one computer,</u> a respective set of network modules or devices, comprising for every module or device of said set <u>which has a plurality of different implementations</u>, at least one respective interfacing object with other modules or devices of said set; said respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object being uniform for all modules or devices of said set <u>and said internal side of said respective interfacing object being related to the plurality of different implementations of said modules or devices.</u>

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, comprising:

for at least one module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations;

a unique interfacing object for all different implementations of said plurality of different implementations.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, comprising:

for at least one module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations; and

a respective interfacing object for every different implementation of said plurality of different implementations.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for allowing the communication among modules or devices of said set as events.

34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for allowing the communication among modules or devices of said set as messages.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, comprising a statistics managing module to collect statistic data pertaining to the operation of said simulated network, said statistics managing module being configured for measuring said statistic data through the external side of said interfacing objects associated with the modules or devices of said set.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for exchanging information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for exchanging information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

a time indicator;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

38. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein said interface objects comprise functionalities selected from:

messages dispatching functionality,

events dispatching functionality,

messages receiving functionality, and

events receiving functionality.

39. (Currently Amended) An object of a system for simulating a telecommunications network according to any one of claims 30 to 38, comprising the at least one computer and at least one respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the modelled module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object having a character that is independent from idiosyncrasies of said module or device.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program product that is adapted to be loaded in the loadable into a memory of at least one computer and, the computer program product comprising portions of software code capable of for performing the method according to any one of claims 21 to 29.

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